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A Word About Our Native
Rhododendrons & Mountain Laurel



EASTERN NURSERIES
Jamaica Plain . Massachusetts



Rhododendron maximum under cultivation



Of all the flowering shrubs that nature has so bountifully distributed through our woods, and over our hillsides, none have more charm than our Mountain Laurel and Rhododendron, or Rose Bay, technically known as *Kalmia latifolia* and *Rhododendron maximum*, and none are more exquisitely beautiful.

Almost the only evergreen flowering plants that we possess, we find them caring for the same condition of life—cool slopes of hill and mountain, shadows of hemlocks and pine, borders of brooks, and steep sides of ravines are the favorite places in which they love to dwell, and in such places in early summer one finds a veritable fairyland.

The rich green foliage of the Laurel seems all the richer from the contrast of the pink and white of its delicately wrought flowers.

The more vigorous Rhododendron, with its broad bronzy green leaves, makes both canopy and background for its neighbor, until its last flower has faded, when it bursts into its own supreme glory of bloom, and for days following splendidly upholds its large bunches of pale pink flowers, over which a light veil of lavender ever seems to float.

It is no wonder that these plants found favor with plant-lovers over the sea. There is hardly an English estate to-day that has not, somewhere within its borders, along the edge of its woodland, or bordering the edge of its paths, at least one bold and splendid group of *Rhododendron maximum*; and the *Kalmia* is so highly prized and admired that the papers announce the approach of its flowering season, and the

great estates open their gates to the public, who come from miles around to see the radiant stranger from across the water.

In our own country,—though both *Rhododendron* and *Kalmia* are generally known, for we make trips to the hills in summer to return with our arms full of their beautiful flowers, and in winter festoon the evergreen branches of laurel for holiday decorations,—few realize how valuable they can be as factors in the adornment of our home grounds.

Where an evergreen effect is desired; either in the woods, along the drives leading to the house of an estate, whether large or small, in close relationship to the house itself; or to set off some architectural feature, such as gates, seats, etc., the *Rhododendron* is invaluable. Where it is desired to create an almost immediate effect and lessen expense a great deal, *Rhododendron maximum* has no equal.

Architects and landscape architects are realizing more and more every day the great value of the native *Rhododendron*; and, recognizing the perfect hardiness of the plant in almost all situations, the practicability of using it in large quantities at a normal expense, and the handsome effects produced by both foliage and flowers, are recommending it very highly to their clients.

Owing to its general characteristics, it will blend well with all other species of the *Rhododendrons* and *Azaleas*. Growing, as it does, to a considerable height, and blooming some three or four weeks later than the more highly colored varieties of the Hybrid *Rhododendron*, it forms a splendid background for

groups of those forms, that may be planted. Its value, in the winter, too, is great—giving a rich green note to the garden that is usually then so bare.

DESCRIPTION

Rhododendron maximum is perfectly hardy, growing naturally in some of the coldest sections in Eastern United States. It is, however, not confined to cold localities, but is to be found as far south as Georgia. In the open it forms more dense and bushy habits than in the woods (where it attains a height of ten to twenty feet), which makes it most desirable for transplanting.

The foliage of *Rhododendron maximum* is the largest of all our American Rhododendrons. It is oblong and lanceolate oblong in form, and between four to seven inches in length, and dark glossy green. The flowers are in dense clusters and in great numbers, and vary in color from pure white to light shades of lavender-pink, tinted with yellowish and orange spots within. It is naturally a shade-loving plant, which makes it particularly adaptable for planting on the borders of woods, and on north slopes under the trees, where no other plant will thrive. They take so kindly to cultivation that it is possible to transplant them from their native haunts in most any size desired, thus securing an effect in one or two years, which is not ordinarily obtained in less than several years from plantings of the usual sized nursery stock. In fact, it is quite possible to create in private estates, in Parks, Public Squares and Cemeteries, in a comparatively



Rose Bay — Rhododendron maximum



Mountain Laurel — Kalmia latifolia

short time, just such magnificent and harmonious effects as are so often seen and admired in its native haunts.

Kalmia latifolia is also perfectly hardy—it attains a height of from six to eight feet in the open, or when growing in the shade, from fifteen to twenty. The foliage is oval, thick, of a rich glossy green color, varying slightly on account of differences in soil and situation. The clusters of pink and white flowers are in such masses as to often hide the foliage, its profusion of blooming being one of the peculiarities of the plant.

CULTURAL DIRECTIONS

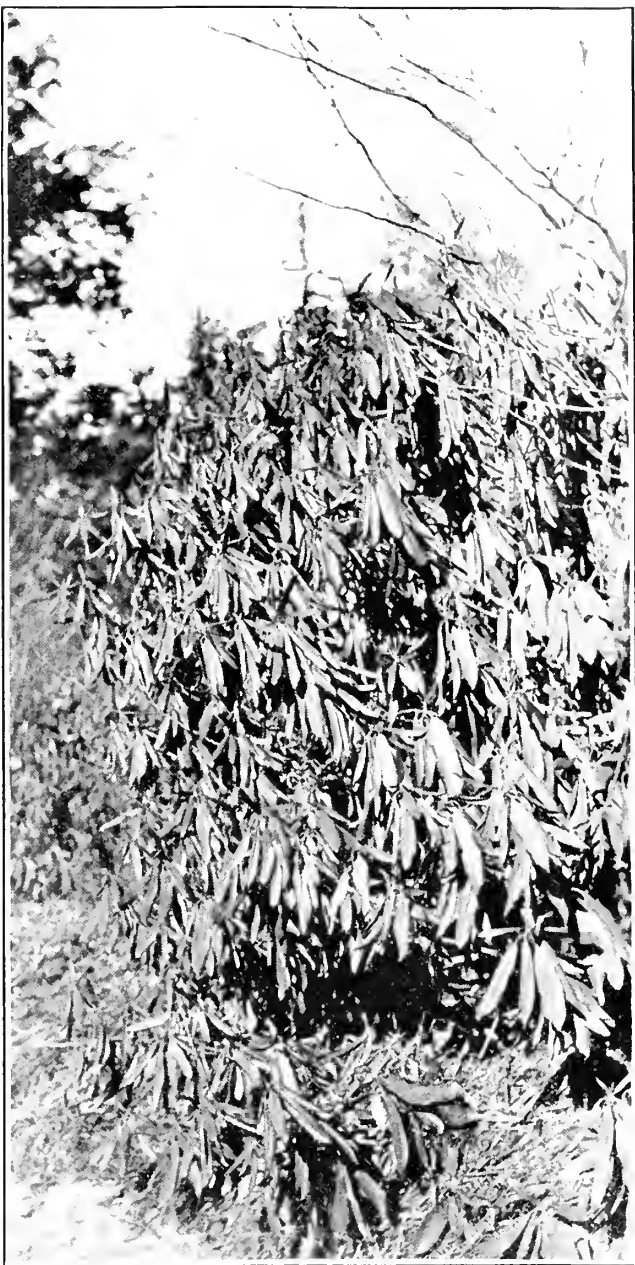
Rhododendron maximum and *Kalmia latifolia* will thrive in almost any good garden soil which is free from lime; but they prefer a good deep soil, two to two and a half feet deep, with plenty of good leaf-mould and other decayed vegetable matter, such as peat, and a scattering of sharp sand. They prefer a shady or partially shady position, with a northern exposure; but it is possible to use them in almost any situation.

Rhododendrons generally form close balls with the earth, and, consequently, are more easily transplanted than most shrubs. *Kalmia* has the reputation of being difficult to transplant, yet under favorable circumstances, and when efforts are made to carefully dig and select them from the open, little difficulty is experienced, and they can be planted with a good degree of safety. It is advisable, for the first season

or two, to mulch the ground with tan bark, dried forest leaves, or something similar, to prevent evaporation. It is important that transplanted plants be watered till thoroughly established. This should be done for a year or two, especially in the event of a dry season.

COLLECTING SOURCES

We control thousands of acres of unexcelled Rhododendrons and Kalmias, from which selection is made by a trained force of men. The utmost care is exercised in selection; the plants being inspected and culled at least three times



*Specimen clump of Rhododendron maximum
growing in the open*

Showing vigor of plants and foliage

A FEW OF OUR SPECIALTIES

Which are most carefully selected specimens

Prices on larger or smaller sized stock gladly given upon application

Norway Maples —	Each	10	100
12 to 14 feet; 2 to 2¼ inches, cal.	\$1 75	\$15 00	\$125 00
12 to 14 feet; 2¼ to 2½ inches, cal.	2 00	17 50	150 00
2½ to 2¾ inches, cal.	2 25	20 00	175 00
Sugar Maples —			
12 to 14 feet	1 25	10 00	90 00
14 to 15 feet	1 75	13 50	100 00
Fagus sylvatica —			
4 to 5 feet	1 00	7 00	50 00
5 to 6 feet	1 50	13 50	95 00
Fagus sylvatica purpurea —			
7 to 8 feet; sheared and root-pruned	2 00	17 50	100 00
8 to 9 feet; sheared and root-pruned	2 75	20 00	150 00
Acer tataricum ginnala —			
4 to 5 feet	65	5 00	20 00
5 to 6 feet	1 00	7 00	35 00
Liriodendron Tulipifera —			
6 to 8 feet	75	5 00	40 00
8 to 10 feet	1 00	7 50	60 00
10 to 12 feet	1 25	10 00	75 00
Koelreuteria paniculata —			
6 to 8 feet	75	6 00	40 00
8 to 10 feet	1 00	7 00	45 00
Horse Chestnut (Del. White and Red) —			
7 to 8 feet	1 50	11 50	
8 to 9 feet	2 00	16 00	
Pin Oak —			
7 to 8 feet	1 00	8 50	60 00
8 to 9 feet	1 50	12 50	75 00
9 to 10 feet	1 75	15 00	100 00
Hemlock —			
2½ to 3 feet; transplanted and heavy	1 00	8 00	65 00
3 to 3½ feet	1 25	10 00	80 00
3½ to 4 feet	1 50	12 00	85 00

Boxbush Pyramids —			
	Each	10	100
4 feet	\$5 00	\$45 00	
4½ feet	6 00	50 00	
5 feet	7 50	65 00	
White Pine —			
2 to 2½ feet	75	6 00	\$40 00
3 to 4 feet	1 00	9 00	65 00
4 to 5 feet	1 50	12 50	70 00
5 to 6 feet	2 00	17 50	75 00
Azalea mollis —			
15 to 18 inches	75	5 00	45 00
18 to 24 inches	1 00	7 50	60 00
Azalea pontica —			
18 to 24 inches	1 00	8 50	75 00
24 to 30 inches	1 75	15 00	100 00
Retinospora squarrosa —			
2 to 2½ feet	1 50	12 50	
3 to 3½ feet	2 50	20 00	
4 to 4½ feet	3 50	30 00	
Hybrid Rhododendrons —			
1 to 1½ feet	1 50	12 50	100 00
1½ to 2 feet	1 75	15 00	125 00
2 to 2½ feet	2 50	20 00	150 00
Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora —			
3 to 3½ feet per doz., \$3.50 .			20 00
4 to 5 feet per doz., \$6 .			35 00
Viburnum tomentosum —			
3½ to 4 feet	70	5 50	40 00
4 to 4½ feet; very broad and bushy	1 00	7 50	45 00
4½ to 5 feet; very broad and bushy	1 10	9 00	50 00
5 to 6 feet; very broad and bushy	1 25	11 00	60 00
Iris Kaempferi, named sorts	35	2 00	12 50
Iris Germanica, named sorts	25	1 50	10 00
Iris Sibirica, extra heavy clumps	25	1 00	8 00
Phlox decussata, best named sorts	25	2 00	15 00
Paeonies —			
12 named sorts per doz., \$2.50 .			
Heavy clumps per doz., \$6 .			
Cornus florida —			
4 to 5 feet	75	6 00	45 00

Address all communications to

EASTERN NURSERIES

M. M. Dawson, Manager

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

J. Horace McFarland Co., Horticultural Printers, Harrisburg, Pa.

